

GETTING INVOLVED OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

INTRODUCTION & LEARNING GOALS

Studies show that college students who are engaged both inside and outside the classroom are more likely to succeed in college and earn a degree¹. The following lesson will help students:

- *Understand the importance of getting involved in activities outside the classroom*
- *Learn about ways to get involved*
- *Research specific opportunities for getting involved on campus*

AGENDA

Timing: approximately 50–60 minutes (will vary by class size)

1. Warm-up: Making the most of your college experience
2. Independent research: How can I get involved in my future campus community?
3. Wrap-up/Reflection: Narrow it down

ITEMS NEEDED

1. A copy of the College Success Guide for each student in the class. If students don't have copies on hand, you may download a printable PDF at LearnMoreIndiana.org/collegesuccessguide. For this lesson, refer to pages 18–20.
2. Computers with Internet access.
3. Worksheets included in this lesson (make a copy for each student in the class):
 - Making the most of your college experience (also on page 20 of the College Success Guide)
 - How can I get involved in my campus community?
 - Narrow it down

¹ George D. Kuh et al., "What Matters to Student Success: A Review of the Literature." National Postsecondary Education Cooperative. July 2006.
<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsreports/2006/kuh_team_report.pdf> (accessed 22 January 2015).



Activities

1

WARM-UP: MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE *(10–15 minutes)*

Distribute the worksheet: “Making the most of your college experience.”

Ask students to read page 19 of the College Success Guide, or ask for volunteers to read to the group. Then, instruct students to complete the worksheet, which is also available on page 20 of the College Success Guide. Have them share their responses with a partner or with the class. As a group, discuss the importance and benefits of getting involved during college.

2

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN MY FUTURE CAMPUS COMMUNITY? *(30 minutes)*

Distribute the worksheet: “How can I get involved in my future campus community?”

Students will conduct online research to find campus and community involvement opportunities at their college. Point out the tips provided on the worksheet to help guide students' research.

3

WRAP-UP/REFLECTION: NARROW IT DOWN *(10–15 minutes)*

Distribute the worksheet: “Narrow it down.”

Students will consider the research they've just conducted and choose which opportunities for involvement interest them the most. They will also record contact information and next steps for getting involved.



Worksheet | MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Students who are involved and take advantage of opportunities to engage with their college communities are more likely to graduate on time and have better grades. Answer the following questions to help you determine how you may want to get involved.

What sort of extracurricular activities were you involved in during high school?

What opportunities would you like to get involved in during college?

Clubs and student organizations

Recreational sports

Study abroad

Community service or volunteering

Experiential-, immersive- and service-learning courses

Other



Worksheet | HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN MY CAMPUS COMMUNITY?

For this activity, you will conduct research online to find out what kinds of opportunities for getting involved are available at your college.

Getting started

To begin your research, visit your college's website. If you don't yet know which college you will attend, choose the institution you're most interested in.

Research tips

Browse the college's website for campus and community involvement information. Many institutions provide sections for Students or Current Students, Campus Life or Student Life, or Student Affairs on their websites where you can find this information. If you can't find the information, use the website's search tool, if available.

<i>Involvement opportunities</i>	<i>What I learned</i>
What types of CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS does your college offer?	
What opportunities does your college offer for students to:	
Participate in recreational sports?	
Take part in diversity or multicultural programming?	
Study abroad?	
Participate in experiential-, immersive-, and/or service-learning courses (may also be called internships)?	



Worksheet | HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN MY CAMPUS COMMUNITY? (CONTINUED)

Involvement opportunities

What I learned

Where can students at your college learn more about COMMUNITY SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER opportunities?

What are some SPECIAL EVENTS that your college offers for students?

What are some OTHER OPPORTUNITIES for involvement that your college offers?



Worksheet | NARROW IT DOWN

Based on your research, what opportunities for involvement interest you most? Write down three campus activities, organizations, events or other opportunities that you would like to learn more about. Next to each, jot down details about the opportunity as well as contact information and instructions for getting involved.

<i>Involvement opportunities that MOST interest me include:</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Contact information and/or instructions for getting involved</i>
1		
2		
3		